

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Big R Mfg & Dist Inc

Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology

Big R Manufacturing Embraces Lean

Client Profile:

Big R Manufacturing is a bridge and culvert manufacturer located in Greeley, Colorado. The 36-year-old business employs 65 people.

Situation:

Big R's owners had experienced an increase in sales, primarily through better targeting of market needs. The company required assistance in fulfilling the increase in customer demand and contacted the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

CAMT customized a Lean Manufacturing training plan for Big R aimed to increase productivity and curtail non-value added activities. Big R's entire workforce completed training on the Principles of Lean Manufacturing, and one-third of the workforce completed Value Stream Mapping training and implementation as well as a five-day Kaizen event focused on rapid improvement using the implementation of several Lean tools. In addition, a visual production schedule board was developed to communicate and monitor progress on the shop floor, significantly decreasing wasted time. Most important, the CAMT training facilitated a shift in the company-wide culture, encouraging staff to recognize the value of their work and their collective ability to attain and sustain the anticipated growth.

Results:

- * Retained sales of \$1 million.
- * Reduced lead time by 50 percent.

Testimonial:

"The tools that we learned from CAMT have changed the way we look at our costs, and we have embraced Lean practices as part of our culture."

Kenzie MacPherson, President